



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Appomattox Court House NHP
P.O. Box 218



LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING CONCEPTS:

Provide comments and suggestions at APCO_GMP@nps.gov.

To send written comments or to be added to our mailing list, address correspondence to:

Superintendent of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park,
P.O. Box 218
Appomattox, VA 24522.

Schedule for the General Management Plan

Planning Activity	Dates	Public Involvement Activity
Define Issues	Completed	Public meetings, agency meetings, focus group sessions, Newsletter #1
Assess resources and significance	Completed	
Present Initial Management Concepts (first step in the development of alternatives)	Completed	Review and comments on the management concepts, purpose and significance statements, interpretive themes included in this newsletter (#2). Check website for studies
Develop full range of alternative including no-action alternative	Summer 2004	Watch for Newsletter #3; review and comment on the management alternatives
Produce and Revise Draft GMP/EIS	Winter 2005	Attend public meeting and or write to the park to provide review and comment on the draft GMP/EIS
Produce final GMP/EIS	2005	



Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

Planning Newsletter

SPECIAL ISSUE ON TRAFFIC CALMING

June 2004

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The draft General Management Plan (GMP) for Appomattox Court House is starting to take shape. There appears to be a broad consensus among both Park managers and community leaders about the need to lengthen visitor stay as a means of increasing economic activity associated with a visit to the park. Additional interpretive opportunities could be developed on lands south of Route 24 to help achieve this broad community goal. However, additional measures are needed to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety within the Park. I am pleased to share in this newsletter some of the ideas that have been developed to address the safety issues that we identified in the planning process. The traffic calming concepts shown on the inside pages of this newsletter are "works in progress" that will be revised as we receive feedback from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the County, the Town of Appomattox, nearby residents and other stakeholders.

Route 24 is a state highway maintained by VDOT. Approximately four thousand vehicles use Route 24 every day. According to VDOT the average speed of 85% of the drivers traveling through the Park is 62 mph. In order to expand interpretive opportunities in the park, travel speeds must be slowed down considerably.

Changing the speed limit alone will not lead to lower operating speeds. Instead, physical changes to the roadway are needed that require drivers to slow down to navigate, thereby "self-enforcing" the lower speed limits. This technique is often referred to as "traffic calming."

We believe that traffic calming on Route 24 is needed for the following purposes:

- 1) to slow traffic to speeds more consistent with the desired operating speed through a National Historical Park;
- 2) to enable NPS to develop the southern side of the park for visitor use including safe pedestrian crossings of Route 24 (e.g. extending the History Trail to link together sites as part of a walking experience rather than requiring vehicular use);
- 3) to improve the safety of existing waysides (slower speeds require less sight distance to safely get on and off Route 24);

4) to decrease the speed differential between park visitors and through traffic.

For Route 24, four general traffic calming strategies are recommended: 1) the establishment of distinct transition speed zones—from 55 to 45 to 35 mph approaching the park from the north; 2) reducing travel lane widths to 10-feet corresponding to the 35mph speed zone; 3) enhancements to each of the park gateways to more clearly delineate the entrance to the Park; and, 4) physically change the roadway to slow drivers down by deflecting the vehicle path around a series of islands at key intersections, markings for pedestrian crossings and minimizing long-straight roadway sections (see photograph below).

We are looking for your immediate feedback to determine the level of interest in and support for these ideas in the community. We hope to move forward in the planning process with recommendations that are likely to be effective and achievable. Please refer to the back page for ways to convey your views to us. Thank you for your time and effort.

Reed Johnson, Superintendent
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park



Long straight sections of Route 24 enable drivers to travel well above the posted 55 mph speed limit. The traffic calming concepts would shift the alignment around a "splitter island" at the bottom of the hill shown in this photograph, resulting in drivers having to slow down to 35 mph and helping to self-enforce a lower speed limit. At the location here, the alignment would be shifted to the south side to avoid the water line and other sensitive areas.